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May 2007

## LPE Center News, May 2007

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# LPE Center News



May, 2007

Connecting Experts With Those Advising Producers

<http://lpe.unl.edu>

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## May 18, 2007 Webcast Reminder

"Value of Manure In Land Application Systems"

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## LPE Learning Center Webcast Series

### June Webcast Is Value-Added Processing of Manure

Generating a value-added product from livestock manure or poultry litter is an idea that is gaining widespread interest. However, turning it into a profitable venture takes



Reg Clause

careful research and planning. The June webcast for the LPE Learning Center will discuss how to evaluate the market for manure beyond its value for crop nutrients. Specifically, what is the business model for merchandising manure into higher value markets and what is different between successful and not-so-successful case studies? [More...](#)



Doug Parker

The presenters are Reg Clause, program specialist in the Value Added Agriculture Program at Iowa State University, Dr. Erik Lichtenberg, Professor and Dr. Doug Parker, Associate Professor with the University of Maryland.

*Date/Time:* Friday, June 15, 2007 at 2:30 pm Eastern, 1:30 pm Central, 12:30 pm Mountain, and 11:30 am Pacific.



Erik Lichtenberg

*How to Attend:* Go to <http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast2.html> for directions. A schedule of upcoming webcasts is available at <http://lpe.unl.edu/webcast.html>.

## What's Going On in the LPE Learning Center?

### Webcast Planning Underway

The LPE Learning Center team is planning the 2008 series of webcasts. Newsletter subscribers will soon receive a request to fill out a survey on water quality topics and will be asked to select issues that are most important to them. The input from that survey will be very important to the team as they select topics and identify speakers for future webcasts. When you receive the request, please take a few moments to fill out the survey. Thank you in advance for your participation!

### Alternative Technologies Web Resources Available

The alternative technologies team has pulled together a set of resources about treating livestock manure and poultry litter. The site currently includes information on anaerobic digestion, composting, solids separation, and vegetated treatment. The team will continue to add topics and will also be developing a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). If you have a resource or suggestion for the site or a question to include in the FAQs, please contact the LPE Project Coordinator, [Jill Heemstra](#). The alternative technologies site is found at <http://lpe.unl.edu/alternative.html>.

## FPPC Program Offers Cost Share for Innovative Manure Technologies

Reducing the amount of manure nutrients being concentrated in regions with high livestock density requires finding economically feasible ways to move the excess nutrients farther away from the livestock. One effort actively engaged in the search for solutions is the Farm Pilot Project Coordination, (FPPC) Inc.

The mandate of FPPC is to demonstrate innovative treatment technology systems at the farm scale that reduce the nutrient content of the waste stream on the farm by more than 75%. FPPC is unique in that it is a non-profit organization with the flexibility to make agreements with technology providers and farm owners and combine technologies for complete solutions. FPPC works closely with NRCS in managing both the funds allocated to it by Congress and in the demonstration and evaluation of manure management technologies.

To date, over 30 projects have been selected for demonstration; including several at, or near, completion. Some examples of technologies include: solids separation, composting, thermo-chemical conversion,

combustion, anaerobic digestion, and treatment of wastes. Often, combinations of biological, chemical and mechanical technologies are used to create a complete system for a farm.

*"The program has surfaced several technologies from industries and public municipalities that are not commonly used in agricultural settings. One of the challenges in moving these technologies into the agricultural sector is understanding the economic impact on agribusiness."*

*--William Boyd, USDA NRCS*

The program is currently evaluating the most recent round of applications, with several likely to be selected for demonstration. The next request for proposals is expected in late in 2007, with the possibility of one aimed at technologies feasible for limited resource farms.

To read about some of the demonstration projects, or to learn more about the FPPC, visit their website at <http://www.fppcinc.org/>.

### Spotlight On...

## Iowa State To Host a Conference on Anaerobic Treatment of Ag Wastes

The Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University is offering training on the [Anaerobic Treatment of Agricultural Wastes](#) on May 21-22, 2007 in Des Moines, IA.

As energy costs rise, there is increased interest in anaerobic digestion of animal manures to generate energy. This interest has included the direct use of biogas on the farm, centralized digestion systems, co-digestion facilities, and digestion of manures as an energy source at ethanol plants. As a result, agricultural producers are requesting information and decision making advice on topics related to anaerobic treatment of agricultural waste.

This course has been developed to provide necessary information and tools that a consultant, decision maker, system reviewer, or information provider can use to assist agricultural operators. This short course will walk through the unit processes of anaerobic treatment, from fundamental principles to case histories that will demonstrate full-scale anaerobic treatment technologies in agricultural settings.

The topics of the course will include:

- Introductory information on anaerobic digestion
- Current status of manure anaerobic digestion
- System configuration and technology selection
- Cost sharing and support opportunities
- Biogas production rates, collection and handling
- Direct use of biogas
- Electricity generation with biogas
- Marketing of carbon credits
- Anaerobic digestion and biogas use at ethanol plants
- Use of centralized digestion facilities

To learn more, go to the conference web site at:

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/anaerobiccourse/home.html>



This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2005-51130-03315. Any opinions, findings,

conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.